

NE98 Telephone Follow-up Expenditure Survey: Overview

The 1996 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA) requires each regional Fishery Management Council to consider the effects of its regulations on fishing communities as well as fishery participants. In recent years, declining abundance of many federally managed fish stocks have resulted in more restrictive regulations for both commercial and recreational fisheries. In some instances (e.g., the rockfish and salmon fisheries on the Pacific coast), these harvest restrictions have resulted in heightened awareness of the recreational fishery, both as a source of fishing mortality and as a fishery sector likely to be impacted by regulations. This economic survey is intended to help address regulatory requirements of the MSFCMA by (1) providing the data needed to estimate economic impacts of the saltwater recreational fishery on coastal economies of the Pacific coast. The survey data will also be used (2) as a basis for comparison with saltwater fishing expenditures estimated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in its National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, and (3) to estimate a Random Utility Model of angler decisions regarding fishing site, mode and target species for one-day fishing trips.

The economic data will be collected as a supplement to the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS), a survey sponsored annually by the National Marine Fisheries Service which provides estimates of aggregate marine recreational harvest and effort in designated coastal subregions of the U.S. On the Pacific coast, the MRFSS covers four subregions: southern California, northern California, Oregon and Washington. The MRFSS consists of two components: a random telephone survey and a creel survey.

The MRFSS Telephone Survey is a random survey of coastal county households which is conducted at two-month intervals throughout the year. Household members identified in the MRFSS Telephone who had gone saltwater recreational fishing in the previous two months are asked details of each day fished during that time period. The proportion of total household contacts that include at least one two-month angler and the mean number of angler days per angling household (as estimated from the MRFSS Telephone for each two-month survey wave), together with U.S. Census data on total numbers of households residing in coastal counties, are then used to estimate the aggregate number of angler days fished by coastal county residents during each survey wave.

The MRFSS Intercept Survey is a creel survey in which anglers are intercepted and interviewed at fishing sites. The Intercept sample is stratified by survey wave, subregion, and fishing mode. Data collected in the MRFSS Intercept on the angler's county of residence are used to estimate the proportion of angler days accounted for by non-coastal county residents, which is then used to expand the estimates of aggregate fishing effort by coastal county residents (as derived from the MRFSS Telephone) to include non-coastal county residents. The MRFSS Intercept also provides estimates of the numbers and species composition of fish caught per angler day. These estimates of mean harvest per angler day, combined with estimates of the aggregate number of angler days (as described previously), are used to calculate aggregate harvest by subregion, species category, fishing mode and survey wave.

GENERAL APPROACH AND SAMPLING STRATEGY

The economic survey will include three components: (1) add-on questions to the MRFSS Intercept Survey (hereafter referred to as the Intercept Add-On), (2) a telephone interview administered as a follow-up to the Intercept Add-On (hereafter referred to as the Telephone Follow-Up), and (3) add-on questions to the MRFSS Telephone Survey (hereafter referred to as the Telephone Add-On). Data gathered in the Intercept Add-On and Telephone Follow-Up will be used to address the three objectives described in Section 1.0. Some of the questions asked in the Intercept Add-On and Telephone Follow-Up will be replicated in the Telephone Add-On for the purpose of evaluating and addressing potential sources of bias in the other two surveys. Because the economic survey will be conducted as a supplement to the MRFSS, maximum sample sizes for the Intercept Add-On and Telephone Follow-Up will be determined by the base sample size for the MRFSS Intercept Survey, and for the Telephone Add-On by the base sample size for the MRFSS Telephone Survey.

Telephone Follow-Up to MRFSS Intercept Add-On

The Telephone Follow-Up is designed to elicit additional information from anglers who complete the Intercept Add-On. Intercept respondents who indicate a willingness to participate in the Telephone Follow-Up will be contacted within three weeks of the time they were intercepted. Only anglers who participated in the MRFSS Intercept and Intercept Add-On will be interviewed; proxy reporting will not be allowed for the Telephone Follow-Up. Volunteers for the Follow-Up will not be subject to an additional phone call for intercept validation. Validation interviews for such individuals will be administered as part of the Follow-Up interview, with the validation interview preceding the economic questions. The Telephone Follow-Up database will include an identification code that allows the information provided by Follow-Up respondents to be linked with their responses to the base MRFSS Intercept and Intercept Add-On. The database will also include the date of the Follow-Up interview, to allow calculation of the time elapsed since the date of intercept.

Data Sets

Data sets can be obtained by contacting the National Marine Fisheries Service, Science and Technology division.

Administrative Statistics

Table 14: Interviews by Telephone Validation Potential

1994	Respondent has home phone							
	Yes		No		Unknown		Refused	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
North Atlantic	15877	92.7	276	1.6	70	0.4	906	5.3
Mid-Atlantic	21095	98.2	303	1.4	47	0.2	35	0.2
North East	36972	95.45	579	1.5	117	0.3	941	2.75